

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/629,621

Examiner

Tom V. Sheng

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 7/20/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,18 and 20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Raymond A. DiPerna on 10/3/2006.

In the claims:

Claim 20, line 1, replace "program" with --a computer program stored in a memory--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a system of inputting position coordinates at the coordinate input surface using a coordinate input pen at a distance from the coordinate input surface. Particularly, the distance is used to scale an immediate coordinate of the input pen into a coordinate at the coordinate input surface.

Independent claim 1 identifies, inter alia, the unique distinct features, "change means for changing the position coordinates by multiplying the position coordinates by a predetermined coefficient that is obtained on the basis of a coordinate with a vertical

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direction axis with respect to the coordinate input surface, and that is related to a distance between the coordinate input surface and the coordinate input pointing tool.”

Independent claim 18 identifies, inter alia, the unique distinct features, “a change step of changing the position coordinates by multiplying the position coordinates by a predetermined coefficient that is obtained on the basis of a coordinate with a vertical direction axis with respect to the coordinate input surface, and that is related to a distance between the coordinate input surface and the coordinate input pointing tool.”

Independent claim 20 identifies, inter alia, the unique distinct features, “program code for a change step of changing the position coordinates by multiplying the position coordinates by a predetermined coefficient that is obtained on the basis of a coordinate with a vertical direction axis with respect to the coordinate input surface, and that is related to a distance between the coordinate input surface and the coordinate input pointing tool.”

Kobayashi et al. (US 6,862,019 B2), hereinafter Kobayashi, teaches a similar coordinate input system. Specifically, sensors at the coordinate input surface determine whether the coordinate input pen is within 300 mm from the input surface. Based on the measurement and the state of a switch of the input pen, the final coordinate of input pen with respect to the input surface is either an absolute coordinate or a relative coordinate. However, Kobayashi here does not teach the scaling of the input pen coordinate by a predetermined coefficient related to a distance between the coordinate input surface and the coordinate input pointing tool.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V. Sheng whose telephone number is (571) 272-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tom Sheng

AMR A. AWAD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
